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ABSTRACT

Rail-lex Slovenia is a project to develop a dictionary of railway terminology in the Slovenian language, part of a larger undertaking of the International Union of Railways to develop a modern, multilingual communication infrastructure. Participating organizations represent 22 European languages. Two partners in the Rail-lex Slovenia venture are the Slovenian Railways and the Institute for Slovenian Language. The dictionary is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1998. Main topics of the dictionary are listed in this paper in German. Keywords from the main Rail-lex project are being translated into Slovenian to promote standardization, and additional keywords reflecting the social and other specific circumstances of Slovenia are being added to form a 15,000-headword dictionary. (MSE)

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Rail-lex Slovenia – A Modern Railway Dictionary

(Joint Venture Case Study)

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The two partners involved in the joint venture are the Railway Traffic Institute, part of the Slovenian Railways and the Institute for Slovenian Language, which is part of the Scientific Research Centre at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The work on the project, Dictionary of Railway Terminology (Železniški terminološki slovar), began in January 1994 and is to be completed in five years by the end of 1998.

The dictionary is part of a larger European undertaking, Rail-lex Europe, which is a coordinated effort of 29 members of the UIC, Union Internationale des Chemins de fer (International Union of Railways). UIC consists of 97 railway and transport organizations from Europe and other parts of the world. The aim of the Rail-lex project, which started in 1990 and produced a CD-ROM Rail Lexic with 12 000 headwords and 102 topics in 4 languages (English, German, French, and Italian) in 1994, is to put together a modern, multilingual communication infrastructure. This infrastructure should promote links between the railways themselves, between railways and industry, and between research and commerce and should contribute to the standardization of railway terminology.

Table 1 gives the main topics of the UIC dictionary (in German to illustrate better the engineering spirit of the field):

Maschinentechnik
- Kraftwagen, Schiffe
- Fahrdynamik, Spurfuehrungstechnik
- Fahrzeug Eisenbahn-Triebfahrzeug (gem. Terme)
- E-Trieb-fahrzeug
- Brennkraft-Triebfahrzeug
- Dampf-Triebfahrzeug
- Wagen (gemeinsame Terme)
- Wagen: Personenverkehr
- Wagen: Gueterverkehr
- Fahrzeugteil, -aufbau (gemeinsame Terme)
- Fahrzeugteil, -aufbau Personenverkehr
- Fahrzeugteil, -aufbau Gueterverkehr
- Kupplung
- Laufwerk
- Wagenkastensteuerung
- Fahrzeugantrieb Kraftuebertragung
- Bremse, Bremsdienst
- Elektrotech. Anlagen, Elektr. Energie

Werke
Nachrichtentechnik
Personal, Soziales
Recht
Planung, Kontrolle, Revision
Rechnungswesen
Unternehmenspraesentation
Organisation, Datenverarbeitung, Information
- Managementorganisation
- Bueroorganisation und -kommunikation
- Datenverarbeitung
- Information, Dokumentation, Statistik

Finanzen
Verkehrswesen, Marketing, Angebotsentwicklung
Verkauf, Verkaufsabwicklung, Servicebetriebe
Produktionbetr. Infrastrukturplanung
Allgemeine Technik, Neue Verkehrssysteme
Bautechnik, Neubaustrecken

Table 1. The main topics of Rail Lexic, in German

Two of the main topics, the largest and the one related to data processing, are shown with their respective subtopics as well.

Rail-lex is coordinated by UICs European Rail Research Institute (ERRI), which is based in the Netherlands. The languages of the partners who have participated from the beginning of the project are English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Esperanto, Hungarian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, and Swedish. In the course of the project, the language pool has been enlarged by Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Persian, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, and Slovenian.

On the Slovenian side, the head of the project is mag. Peter Verlič, leader of the team at the Railway Traffic Institute, who is aided by Marjan Vrabl and his team of railway experts in Maribor, the second largest Slovenian city. That is also where, at the same time, a new set of railway codebooks, manuals, and other documentation are being prepared. Since Slovenia gained independence in 1991, the changes needed to bring the railway closer to UIC standards have to be made. The bulk of the keywords from Rail Lexic have now been translated; and together with additional keywords, which reflect the social and other specific circumstances in Slovenian railway, they now form the first draft of a 15 000-headword dictionary:

čas prometne konice	peak-traffic hours peak-traffic period rush hours rush period
direktni vozni list : vozni list na celotni prevozni poti	through consignment note
drobljenje = delitev blokov informacij na fragmente zahtevane velikosti za prenos (maks. dolzina paketov je določena z omre žjem), ki se posredujejo naenkrat	fragmentation into packets = Division of information blocks into fragments of the size required for transmission (maximum length of packets is defined by the network) which will be routed individually
duplikat voznega lista	duplicate of the consignment note

Table 2. Headword samples

The draft of the dictionary will be open to criticism from the railway itself and from the wider audience until the end of 1996 when a linguistic revision on the side of the Institute for the Slovenian Language will also be completed.